

Glossary of Anatomical Terms

Terminology of Body Regions

Back and Limbs

Upper Extremity

<i>Sternal</i>	Region in the middle of the chest
<i>Pectoral</i>	Chest
<i>Scapular</i>	Shoulder blade
<i>Interscapular</i>	Region between the shoulder blades
<i>Axillary</i>	Lateral pectoral, armpit region
<i>Brachium</i>	Arm (shoulder to elbow)
<i>Cubital</i>	Front of the elbow
<i>Olecranon</i>	Back of the elbow
<i>Antebrachium</i>	Forearm (elbow to wrist)
<i>Ulnar</i>	Medial forearm
<i>Radial</i>	Lateral forearm
<i>Carpal</i>	Wrist
<i>Manus</i>	Hand
<i>Palmar</i>	Palm
<i>Pollex</i>	Thumb
<i>Phalangeal</i>	Fingers/Toes
<i>Digits</i>	Fingers/Toes

Lower Extremity

<i>Coxal</i>	Hip
<i>Gluteal</i>	Buttock region
<i>Femoral</i>	Thigh (hip to knee)
<i>Genu</i>	Knee
<i>Patellar</i>	Front of the knee
<i>Popliteal</i>	Back of the knee
<i>Crural</i>	Leg (knee to ankle)
<i>Sural</i>	Back of the leg
<i>Tibial</i>	Medial leg
<i>Fibular</i>	Lateral leg (also peroneal)
<i>Tarsal</i>	Ankle and proximal foot
<i>Pes</i>	Foot
<i>Hallux</i>	Great Toe
<i>Plantar</i>	Bottom of the foot
<i>Calcaneal</i>	Heel

Spine

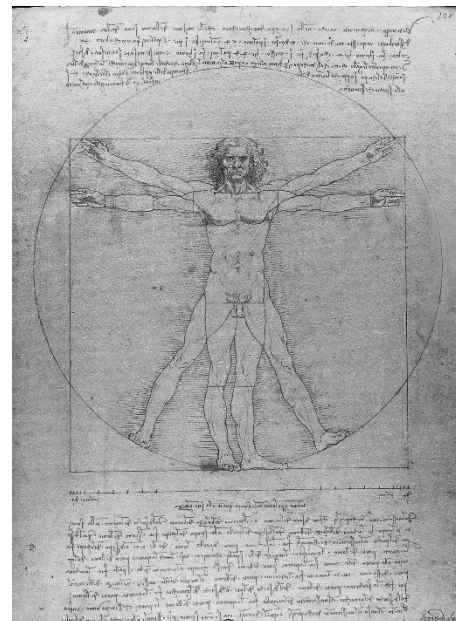
<i>Vertebral</i>	Spinal column
<i>Cervical</i>	Neck
<i>Thoracic</i>	Thorax region
<i>Lumbar</i>	Lower back
<i>Sacral</i>	Between hips posteriorly

Thorax, Abdomen, and Pelvis

<i>Abdominal</i>	Anterior trunk
<i>Inguinal</i>	Groin area
<i>Pelvic</i>	Pelvis
<i>Perineal</i>	Region between thighs
<i>Pubic</i>	Anterior pelvis
<i>Umbilical</i>	Naval region

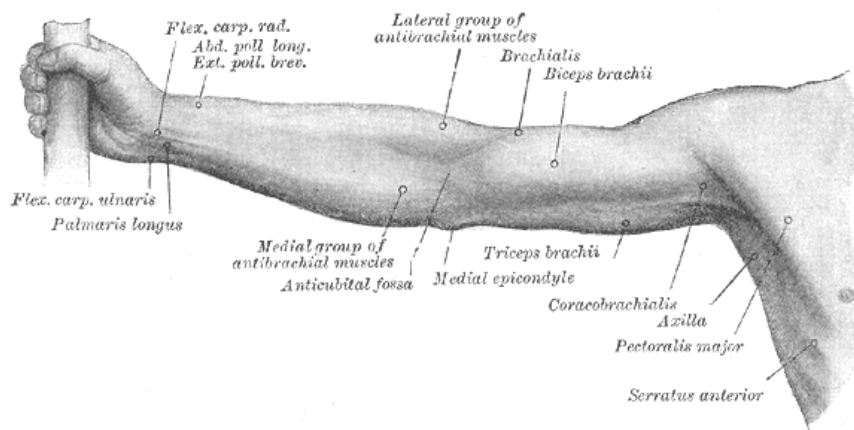
Head and Neck

<i>Auricular</i>	Ear
<i>Buccal</i>	Cheek region
<i>Cephalic</i>	Head
<i>Cranial</i>	Skull
<i>Frontal</i>	Forehead
<i>Mental</i>	Chin area
<i>Nasal</i>	Area around the nose
<i>Nuchal</i>	Back of the neck
<i>Occipital</i>	Back of the head
<i>Oral</i>	Mouth area
<i>Orbital</i>	Eye Area
<i>Temporal</i>	Side of the head above the ears



Terms of Direction

<i>Anterior</i>	In front of, toward the front
<i>Posterior</i>	Behind, toward the back
<i>Dorsal</i>	Toward the back
<i>Ventral</i>	Toward the front
<i>Superior</i>	Above, toward the head
<i>Inferior</i>	Below, toward the feet
<i>Cranial</i>	Toward the head end
<i>Caudal</i>	Toward the tail end
<i>Rostral</i>	Toward the nose
<i>Medial</i>	Toward the midline
<i>Lateral</i>	Away from the midline
<i>Ipsilateral</i>	On the same side
<i>Contralateral</i>	On the opposite side
<i>Deep</i>	Toward the inside, under another structure
<i>Superficial</i>	Toward the outside surface, above another structure
<i>Proximal</i>	Closer to the trunk
<i>Distal</i>	Further from the trunk
<i>Prone</i>	Facing down or rearward (as in the palms or the body)
<i>Supine</i>	Facing up or forward (as in the palms or the body)
<i>Afferent</i>	Conducting toward
<i>Efferent</i>	Conducting away from



Word Parts: Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Word Part	Meaning	Example
a-	Without, lack of	Asymptomatic (without symptoms)
ab-	Away	Abduct (move away from midline)
acou-	Hearing	Acoustic meatus (part of ear)
ad-	To, toward	Adduct (move toward midline)
aden-, adeno-	Gland	Adenoma (tumor of a gland)
-algia	Pain	Neuralgia (nerve pain)
andro-	Male	Androgen (male hormone)
angi-, angio-	Vessel	Angiogram (imaging of vessels)
ante-	Before	Antebrachium (before the arm)
arthr-, arthro-	Joint	Arthritis (inflammation of a joint)
-asis, -asia	Condition of state of	Homeostasis (state of balance of physiological processes)
audi-, audio-	Hearing	Auditory (hearing sense)
auto-	Self	Autoimmunity (immune response against self)
baro-	Pressure, weight	Baroreceptor (receptor for blood pressure changes)
bi-	Twice, double, two	Biceps brachii (arm muscle with two heads)
brady-	Slow	Bradykinesia (slow movement)
carcin-	Cancer	Carcinogen (cancer-causing substance)
cardio-	Heart	Cardiomyopathy (enlargement of the heart muscle)
cerebro-	Brain	Cerebrovascular (of the vasculature of the brain)
chondro-	Cartilage	Osteochondritis (bone and cartilage inflammation)
circum-	Around	Circumflex (to bend around something)
-clast	Break down	Osteoclast (cell that breaks down bone)
contra-	Opposite	Contralateral (opposite side)
cost-	Rib	Costochondritis (inflammation of cartilage of the ribs)
cuti-	Skin	Cutaneous (of the skin)
cyan-	Blue	Cyanosis (bluish coloring of the skin)
-cyte, cyto-	Cell	Keratinocyte (cell that produces keratin)
derm-	Skin	Epidermis (outer layer of skin)
dys-	Difficult, bad	Dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
e-, ec-, ef-, ex-	Out, away from	Efferent (conducting out or away from)
ecto-	Outer	Ectoderm (outer layer of the developing embryo)
-ectomy	To cut out	Lobectomy (removal of a lobe, as that of the lung or liver)
ede-, -edem	Swelling	Edema (having swelling)
endo-	Within	Endoderm (inner layer of the developing embryo)
entero-	Intestine	Enterocolitis (inflammation of the small intestine & colon)
epi-	Upon, on	Epiglottis (flap that lays upon the larynx with swallowing)
extra-	Outside	Extracellular (outside the cell)
-ferent	Carry	Efferent (carry away from the cell)
gastr-, gastro-	Stomach	Gastroenteritis (inflammation of stomach & intestines)
-genesis, -genic	Produce, origin	Neurogenesis (development/production of new neurons)
gloss-, glosso-	Tongue	Glossopharyngeal (of the tongue and pharynx)
glyco-	Sugar, sweet	Glycolysis (breakdown of glucose)
hem-, hemato-	Blood	Hemogenesis (formation of blood cells)

hepato-	Liver	Hepatocyte (cell of the liver)
histo-, hist-	Tissue	Histology (the study of tissues)
hyper-	Above, over	Hyperthyroidism (having an overactive thyroid)
Hypo-	Below, under	Hypothyroidism (having an underactive thyroid)
infra-	Below	Infraspinous (below the spine)
inter-	Between	Interspinous (between the spines)
intra-	Within	Intraabdominal (within the abdominal cavity)
iso-	Equal, same	Isometric (contraction with no change in muscle length)
-itis	Inflammation	Dermatitis (inflammation of the skin)
labi-	Lip	Labial (of the lip)
leuko-	White	Leukocytes (white blood cells)
lip-	Fat	Lipase (breaks down fat cells)
-lysis	Break down	Glycolysis (breakdown of glucose)
mamm-	Breast	Mammary gland (Gland of the breast)
medi-	Middle	Medial (toward the midline)
melano-	Black	Melanocyte (cell that produces dark/black pigment)
myo-	Muscle	Myopathy (disease of the muscle)
necro-	Dead	Necrotizing (causing death, of tissue)
neo-	New	Gluconeogenesis (formation of new glucose)
nephron-	Kidney	Nephron (functional unit of the kidney)
neuro-	Nerve	Neuropathy (disease of nerves)
oculo-, ophthalm-	Eye	Ophthalmic (of or relating to the eye)
odonto-	Tooth	Odontology (study of structure and diseases of teeth)
-oma	Tumor	Glioma (tumor of glial cells)
-osis	Condition of	Neurosis (condition of nerves)
osse-, osteo-	Bone	Osteology (the study of bone)
oto-	Ear	Otitis (inflammation of the ear)
-pathy	Disease	Cardiopathy (disease of the heart)
phag-	Eat	Phagocyte (cell that "eats," as in extracellular debris)
-plegia	Paralyze	Quadriplegia (paralysis of all four limbs)
pneumo-	Lungs, air, gas	Pneumonia (infection of the air sacs of the lungs)
-poiesis	Make, formation of	Hematopoiesis (formation of blood cellular components)
poly-	Many	Polycystic (many cysts)
quad-	Four	Quadriceps femoris (thigh muscle with four heads)
rami-	Branch	Ramus (initial branch of a nerve from the spinal cord)
rect-	Straight	Rectus femoris (straight muscle of the thigh)
reno-	Kidney	Renal (of the kidney)
sclero-	Hard	Atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries)
somato-	Body	Somatosensation (sensation of the body)
steno-	Narrowing	Stenosis (narrowing of an opening or tube)
sterno-	Chest	Sternum (bone in the middle of the chest)
sub-	Under	Subscapular (under the scapula)
super-, supra-	Above, upper	Supraspinatus (muscle above the scapular spine)
tachy-	Fast	Tachycardia (rapid heartbeat)
thorac-	Chest, thorax	Thoracic cavity (chest cavity)
thrombo-	Blood clot	Thrombosis (condition of having a blood clot)

-tomy	Cut, incise	Craniotomy (operation involving cutting of the skull)
tri-	Three	Triceps brachii (muscle of the arm that has three heads)
tunica-	Layer	Tunica externa (external layer)
ultra-	Beyond, excess	Ultrastructure (structure that can only be seen with extreme magnification, as in part of a cell)
uni-	One	Unicellular (one cell)
vas-	Vessel	Vasoconstriction (constriction of a blood vessel)
villo-	Hair	Vellus (fine unpigmented or lightly-pigmented hair)
viscer-	Internal organ	Viscera (internal organs)

References:

McKinley, M.P., O'Loughlin, V.D., Pennefather-O'Brien, E.E., Haris, R.T. *Human Anatomy*, 4th Ed. McGraw-Hill Education, New York, NY. 2012.

Raviola, G. *Glossary of Anatomical Terms*. 1978. Ed. Diwek, D. 2006.